News From Somewhere

By Project Alphistia
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Folkhemmet

The Social Democratic party in Sweden has been in power for most of the post-World War II period. Many Swedes have thought of them as the natural party of government, although that has eroded in the last few decades. The opposition is divided into two sections: several center-right parties which have had a number of coalition governments, and a far right party called The Sweden Democrats.

In the 1930s and 40s, the Social Democrats began the process of creating what they called the "Folkhemmet", which translates as "the people's home." The basic idea was that all Swedes were similar to a big family, and it's the family's responsibility to take care of all its members. As a result, the Swedish cradle-to-the-grave welfare state developed, with universal social programs funded by progressive taxation.

These days the Folkhemmet has a nostalgic meaning for many…those were the "good old days". For its opponents though it was always the nosy "nanny state", and even for those in favor of it, there was plenty to criticize.

For some years there was an immoral project experimenting with eugenics. It consisted of forcibly sterilizing some potential mothers not considered worthy of bearing children. It was largely done in secret, and abandoned when it was revealed. It's still embarrassing to this day.

A multinational Sweden did not begin to develop until the 1960s, when guestworkers arrived. Before then, the only real immigrants were Finns and a few refugees. Now about 20% of the country is of foreign origin. The idea of including foreigners as part of the Folkhemmet wasn't part of the original idea in those early years. The far right Sweden Democrat party though has played with the idea of being pro-Folkhemmet again, but only when the vast majority of those from foreign countries are excluded from the country, with a very small number of completely assimilated immigrants allowed to remain. The other parties do not really include a revival of "The People's Home" as part of their platforms.

Sweden's Social Democratic party is not nearly as socialist as it once was, and has pursued some regrettable "neo-liberal" politices. They have become more center-left in recent decades, and several more leftist parties have become important. The Social Democrats usually have had to create coalitions with them to create a government when they have the largest number of votes in the national elections.

Sweden still has one of the most well-developed social welfare systems in the world. It also promotes worker participation in management, and has one of the highest trade-union memberships of any country. It still has one of the highest standards of living anywhere as well, and is in the top 10 for life expectancy. It has very little poverty.

The focus now in Swedish politics is the assimilation of the immigration population.The democratic left seeks to protect Sweden's

political system from the growing far-right movement. The traditional center-right parties are flirting with including the far-right in the hope they can create a grand coalition, which would be a dangerous development indeed.

"The People's Home" was a successful policy for the Social Democrats, and it is influential in Alphistia's own national ideology. The creation of a stable, humane, democratic, egalitarian, prosperous, free society is just as noble a goal now as it was for the Swedes in the mid-twentieth century. It would be a model for emulation in an Alphistian future.

Alphistia on the Internet Archive

Through the years I have written quite a few booklets and pamphlets. The oldest one I have is from 1975. On Spring Break as a junior in high school, I wrote "The Alphistian System of Government". It was written by hand, using my best Catholic penmanship.

In the last ten years, I've made pdf copies of most of what I have written. Some I linked to the website I had made, with the help of Seth Bookey, early in the internet days. I liked the "antique" look of my original 1995 website. But about three years ago, my site was hacked and largely replaced by Mandarin gibberish…I don't know how or why anyone would bother, but the website was ruined. A longtime friend of my Alphistian projects: Josh Shinavier, let me know that not all was lost…most of what I had on my website was saved on The Wayback Machine.

My biggest lost (or so I thought) were the English-Alphistian and the Alphistian-English dictionaries, but there they were on the Wayback Machine, in a slightly altered format. A few weeks ago, I looked at all my pdfs and decided to see about putting them on the Internet Archive. At first I was daunted by the idea, but I soon learned it is extremely easy to add your zines and other self-published materials there. Now I'm up to 32 items: nearly everything I've written in the last 15 years, and some of the older booklets I scanned in. There's still more and I'll upload them soon..

The Internet Archive is an absolutely wonderful source. It's free and not owned by any of the tech oligarchs or nasty corporations of latter-day predatory capitalism. It makes non-copyrighted materials easily accessible and an enormous amount of older books that are no longer under copyright. Long may it live!

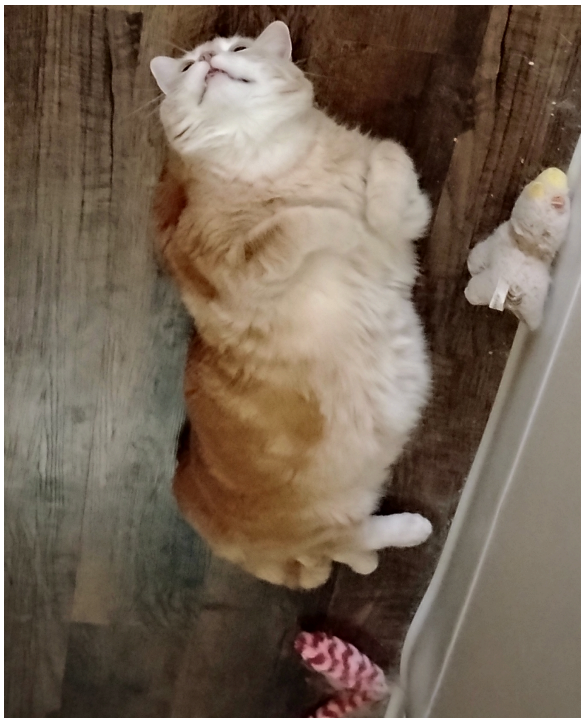
My Alphistian materials are free for all to read, down, share. A few have asked…don't you want to copyright it? No, I don't. I want people to read and learn about Alphistia, and perhaps a few (or more) might be inspired and will act. We can do better than this shitty world we are living in. I don't want to profit from the enshittification, I want to change it 🙂

Alphistia's spot on the Internet Archive is here: https://archive.org/details/@alphistia123

Pushkin is A-OK

A few weeks ago, Pushkin went in for his annual check-up at the vet. His primary care doctor is very fond of him, and was pleased with the results of his bloodtests. Pushkin is diabetic, but he takes a magic pill each day that keeps his blood sugar very stable. He doesn't need insulin shots, which is a relief, because I would have a lot of trouble giving him those each day. He is also on a 95% protein diet, and this has helped him very much. Prior to his diagnosis, he ate a lot of corn-based kibble, but now he eats a mix of duck and chicken munchies and some seafood pate. His coat is beautiful and he's

playful and in a good mood. He really is a Wonder Cat :)



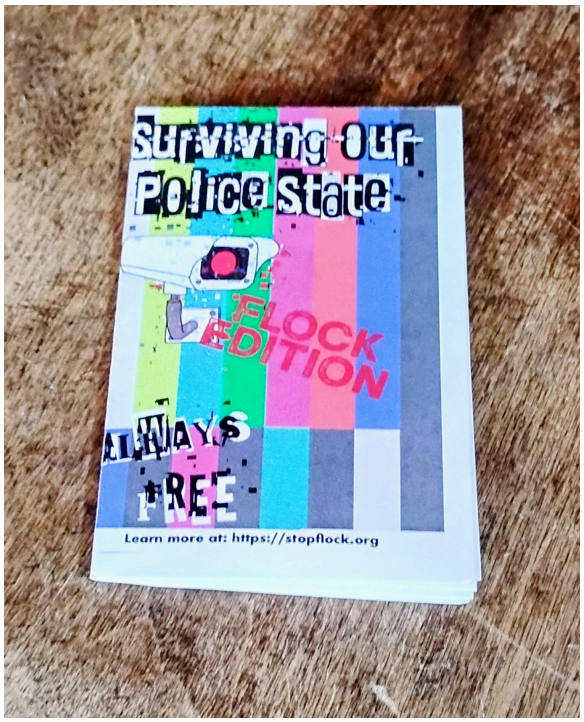
Anti-Flock Initiative

Flock is a private for-profit company that in recent years has been selling its spyware products to municipalities and counties, marketing it primarily as a way to fight crime. Its cameras are installed around Champaign where I live, and I assume I've been filmed repeatedly walking around town. I pass in front of the city building several times a week, and I've seen the camera there. What the local government is doing with the data, I'm not sure. What the private company does with it is even more opaque.

A local group is trying to get the city to cancel its contract with Flock. It's expensive…about a million dollars for five years of private spying. The city council has been less than transparent about renewing its contracts with Flock. There have been no public hearings. The argument that these cameras reduce crime doesn't really hold up under investigation. And Flock can (and does) share its data with federal government agencies, including ICE.

The group has held a meeting with city council officials, but so far there has been no commitment to remove the surveillance cameras. Group members hope to raise awareness, because most locals have NO idea this is going on.

More info at https://stopflock.org/

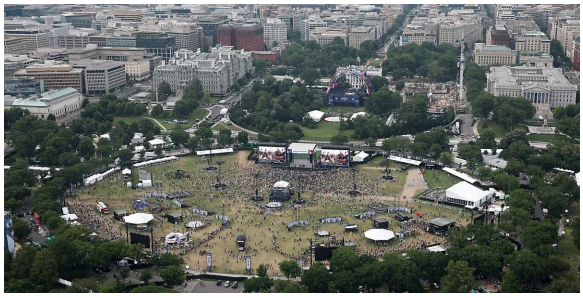


Mad Max America 2026

It's been a year and a half now since trump began his second term, and from Day One it has been non-stop madness. He has seriously damaged the American "brand", which could have been predicted after a slight majority of the American electorate that voted in November 2024 chose this moron to be President for a second time.

Trump has been on a rampage against liberal democracy, and been aided and abetted by a supine Congress and a cabinet of complete fools. Democrats are a confused and fairly ineffective opposition.

After all, they are a center-right party that is controlled at the top by rather cowardly and unimaginative apparatchiks. Faced by the onslaught of trumpster evildoers, they tend to stick their heads in the sand and offer milquetoast criticism.



In spite of that, it seems that in the midterm elections, Democrats could take back the House of Representatives from the GOP, and conceivably win the Senate too. It's very likely that if they do control the House again, they will impeach trump for the third time. And they will drag multiple trump officials in for some intense questioning. Perhaps some of them can even be indicted. After all, so many of them are perjurers from prior testimony, and it's clear there have been a lot of crimes committed already.

The general scene is a continued slide into Mad Max territory. Official stats do not really accurately keep track of wild price increases, the healthcare system continues to decline, the threat of AI is a clear danger that will likely destroy jobs for millions, and when the inevitable bubble bursts…well the devastation will not be pretty.

trump has turned the country into a circus, and he is the ultimate P. T. Barnum. He celebrated his 80th birthday with scenes right out of the classic movie "Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome". He's torn down about a third of the White House, and wants to erect monuments to himself around the capital, including an "Arc de trump" that is hideous. The Ellipse was ruined by his orcs stomping around it on his birthday, while the Reflecting Pool has been "renovated" by a crooked trump crony, and is now filled with algae and brand new peeling paint. Everything trump touches turns to shit.

Comments always welcome:
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